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Colorado Governors' messages

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Governor ... <1862>, <1865>, <1885>, <1887>

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Governor's message, <1878>

Annual message of ... 1865-<1866>

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Message of His Excellency ... <1876>

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Message of Governor ... <1891>

Denver Public Library,

 GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives

It again becomes my duty under the Constitution to inform you in regard to the affairs of the State, and make such recommendations as I may deem expedient. In view of the fact that I shall in a few days surrender the executive office to the gentleman whom the people of Colorado have wisely chosen as their chief magistrate, I will, therefore, recommend only subjects for your consideration as seem necessary to be called to your attention early in the session.

FINANCE

The reports of the Auditor and Treasurer show in detail the financial transactions of the past two years and the present condition of the State. They have been prepared with great care, and are very clear and explicit.

The following statement, made up from both reports, is a summary of the State indebtedness November 30, 1878.

Warrants outstanding.....	\$191,948 99
Certificates of indebtedness issued	29,361 36
Total debt... ..	\$221,310 35
Deduct cash in treasury.....	68,145 89
	\$153,164 46
Add interest on warrants.....	19,836 51
Estimated interest on certificates indebtedness.	1,500 00
Approved penitentiary vouchers outstanding November	
30.....	12,125 33
Total.	
	\$186,626 30

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GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

Deduct amount of warrants outstanding, which will be met by special taxes now due	\$ 4,565 60	
Estimated amount of fines and penalties, and receipts from sales of laws and fees of secretary's office.....	10,000 00	\$14,565 60
Total outstanding debt..		<u>\$172,060 70</u>
The amount of revenue due for general purposes, includ- ing tax of 1878.....		\$247,619 58
Deduct old delinquent tax		<u>71,090 06</u>
Amount due to meet present debt.....		<u>\$176,529 52</u>

When the tax of 1878 is collected, which will be by July first, or at farthest the close of the fiscal year, the State will be out of debt. The debt of this year is, of course, to be paid out of the tax of 1879. For a new State this is unprecedented, and that its credit is good is shown by the fact that State warrants, which less than two years ago were selling for seventy-five cents on the dollar, are now one per cent. above par. The officers in charge of our finances have been careful and conscientious in the performance of their duties, and to their good management the result is largely due.

Among the recommendations of the Auditor is one made by his predecessor, that counties be relieved of the burden of old delinquent taxes, which can never be collected but are still charged against them on his books from year to year. This, as he terms it, is a "deception," being a "dead asset and a useless encumbrance."

I have from time to time examined the bank account of the Treasurer, and always found the balance in the treasury to agree with the balance stated in his quarterly reports. This I found to be correct on November 30th.

TAXATION.

The question of an equitable distribution of the burdens of taxation interests every citizen more, perhaps, than any other one problem in political economy.

The moral obliquity of some men is such that, while honest in business and punctual in meeting their pecuniary obligations, they seek to avoid paying their indebtedness to the government which protects them, not seeming to realize that a wilful misrepresentation of the value of their property is dishonest and foolish, as it does not lessen the burden of taxation

The law distinctly requires that "All property shall be assessed at its full cash value," and the duty of adjusting the rates of assessment in the different counties according to this standard devolves upon the State Board of Equalization.

From the assessors' returns, we find in one county five times as many acres assessed in 1877 as in 1878, and the average value per acre in 1877 one-third as much as in 1876; in another county one-half as much in 1878 as in 1877. Send that statement abroad, for it is published in a table of statistics by the Auditor, and what must those who read it think of Colorado? Would they not at once say, "That State is going backward?" Then take the item of live stock, and we find cattle returned at from \$4 to \$20 per head, horses from \$20 to \$90, and other stock in the same manner.

As it now stands the law is inoperative, and these assessments cannot be adjusted to cash values. In order, however, that all property may bear its due proportion of tax, the assessors' returns should be so complete and specific in their details that the opportunities for evasion and misrepresentation will be reduced to the minimum. The character and location of land should be shown, and the age, whether one, two or three years old, and kind of cattle whether Texas, American, half-breed or thorough-bred. So also of other kinds of live stock. All property should be carefully classified, and then the equalization could be readily and intelligently made by the board.

The total assessment of all property for 1878 is

\$43,072,648, nearly \$400,000 less than for 1877, when, as will be seen by an examination of the table referred to, nearly all the items of which it is composed have increased in number. We thus present the sorry spectacle of growing poorer every year, when every one in Colorado knows that the State never was so prosperous.

The property of the city of Denver alone could not be purchased for the assessed valuation of the State.

The present assessment is about one-third of what it should be, and the State is, therefore, placed in a false light abroad, as the rate of taxation is just three times what it should be. The city and county tax of Denver is about 3½ per cent. Under a proper assessment it would be about one. The honest man is thus oppressed, and the dishonest pays less than his share.

EDUCATION.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction exhibits in his report the condition of our educational system for the biennial term closing August 31st. It is unnecessary for me to dwell upon its details, as he is better acquainted with the workings of our school system and needed changes than any one else can be.

The applications for the printed report of the superintendent are very numerous, and not less than three thousand copies should be published. Containing, as it does, facts and suggestions important to our citizens and of especial interest to those intending to become such, a sufficient number should be printed to meet the demand. Our educational facilities are frequently the one remaining inducement to bring in strangers having families, for, being assured of the high character of our schools, they do not feel that they are sacrificing the welfare of their children, in this respect, by making Colorado their home.

I would also recommend that a special appropriation be made for the traveling expenses of the Superintendent,

to be drawn upon regularly itemized vouchers, as now provided by law. It should not, as heretofore, be contained in the general contingent fund, as that was exhausted last year before he could avail himself of it to visit the schools of our State.

I would further suggest that the reports of all our educational institutions should be made to the State Superintendent, so that they may be embodied in whole or in part in his biennial report.

The high character of our schools has excited great surprise and admiration among educators who have visited us and examined them. The New England Journal of Education of December 19, contains an article on "The Schools of Colorado," written by an eminent educator who recently visited this State, expressing surprise at the excellent character of our schools, especially those of Denver, which he examined more particularly. He writes: "Their physical eminence is five thousand, three hundred and seventeen feet above the sea level, and in point of excellence and high standard they are on a plane with their altitude—in the front rank with the best of those in our New England cities."

Of the State University the Superintendent says: "Its success has more than realized the dream of its most enthusiastic friend." That language is so strong that I quote and adopt it without any other adjectives.

The faculty now consists of four members, and if they are all as full of enthusiasm in and love for their work as their president, the people of the State need not lessen in the slightest degree the pride which they have had in that institution.

It is but proper that I give my testimony in regard to Prof. Shattuck's untiring efforts, promptitude, care and thoroughness in the discharge of his duties, and also of his sound practical sense. The people of Colorado have done well in making him his own successor.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

The report of the Board of Agriculture contains a full description of the new college building and an account of all the circumstances attending its construction.

Having visited it at different times during its erection, I can testify that the work has been thoroughly and faithfully executed, and the State is now in possession of a well-built, commodious, and handsome edifice, at an exceptionally small cost—only \$7,000.

The farmers of Colorado have shown unusual interest in the success of this institution, established, as it has been for the promotion of agricultural science, and, paying, with our stock-raisers, more than one-half of the taxes of the State, their claims are entitled to consideration.

The Board asks an appropriation sufficient to properly furnish the college, so that it can be opened to students, and also for its expenses during the present year. The fund which will arise from the tax of 1878 has been exhausted in completing the building, and, as the tax for 1879 will not be immediately available, an appropriation will therefore be necessary, but after this year the tax will probably suffice for its support, especially if raised, as the board desires, from 1-10 to 1-5 mill. This increase should by all means be made.

The report contains facts of interest and value regarding the culture of forest and fruit trees. The statements given prove conclusively that the fruits of this latitude can be as profitably and successfully raised as our other agricultural products.

A draft of a bill prepared by the Board is herewith transmitted, entitled, "An Act authorizing the County Assessor to collect statistical information, and make proper returns thereof."

The State officers are constantly receiving applications for reports giving reliable statistics of our agricultural, mining and other interests, but not having any state reports the

queries must be replied to by letter, and the information is consequently meagre and unreliable.

I hope this bill, which is decidedly practical, may receive your favorable consideration.

INSTITUTE FOR MUTE AND BLIND.

The reports of the officers of this institute show continued growth and improvement. I invite your attention especially to the report of the president, Dr. R. G. Buckingham, who has labored diligently since its organization to make it efficient. The demand for more room for the accommodation of the present inmates and also for those who may apply is strongly presented. The crowding of the dormitories should be remedied as quickly as possible, as there are few things in the economy of such institutions more prejudicial to health. The matron's report details in a manner, which every housekeeper who reads it will fully appreciate, the inconveniences to which they are subjected for want of sufficient room.

The general management has been careful and economical, and all the officers are entitled to great credit for their efforts to make this institution successful in educating the class of unfortunates for whose benefit it was established, and fitting them for positions of usefulness.

SCHOOL OF MINES.

From this report we note commendable progress. Twenty two students have been enrolled during the year, some of them from other States.

The especial advantages which Colorado offers for the study of certain branches of natural science ought to attract students from all parts of the country, and an especial effort has lately been made to direct the attention of the Eastern States to this institution, with, as I am informed, very encouraging prospects.

The office of Commissioner of Mines was created two

years since, but no appointment has been made for the following reason: the law directs the appointment of a deputy and also an assistant commissioner. The aggregate salaries of the three officers would be \$4,900, which sum, together with their contingent expenses, is required to be paid out of the fund for the support of the School of Mines. As this fund is less than \$4,500 the appointment of these officers would have closed this institution. I would, therefore, recommend that the office of Commissioner of Mines be made entirely separate from the School of Mines, and other provision be made for salary than out of the fund for its support.

An appropriation is recommended, to be expended in adding to the library and laboratory of the school, the necessity for which is presented by Professor Moss.

PENITENTIARY.

The reports of the Commissioners and Warden are complete in every detail, and while showing a deficiency to be provided for by appropriation, yet the management has been economical in every respect.

The total expenditures were	\$65,917 01
Value of improvements	\$36,996 09
Earnings from convict labor	8,522 26
Balance of inventory	4,412 67
	49,931 02
Actual expense to State	\$15,985 99

The deficiency is \$26,463.92.

The appropriation asked for the coming two years is \$89,425, which with the deficiency, \$26,463.92, makes the sum total required \$115,888.92.

The earnings from convict labor have been turned into the treasury, and placed to the credit of the general fund. It would be well, however, to provide that all earnings could be again drawn out upon proper vouchers of the Board of Commissioners, and used for necessary expenses, in the same manner as a regular appropriation.

You will be called upon to consider and take action upon the question of hiring out the labor of the penitentiary. The law at present permits the Commissioners to do this, but the plan has its opponents as well as its advocates.

It is very desirable that the penitentiary should be partially, if not wholly, self-sustaining, but bringing convict labor into competition with free labor works oftentimes grievous injury to industrious, law-abiding citizens and their families.

Can the State better afford to do this than to pay all the expense of sustaining the convicted criminals? This question should receive great deliberation, and patient examination in all its bearings.

The government of the penitentiary is vested in a Board of Commissioners, who hold their office for the term of two years. The law in this respect should be changed, making the term three years, so that one Commissioner may retire annually, thus always leaving two members of the Board who have had some experience in the management of its affairs.

A BOARD OF PARDONS.

It is obvious that no general rules can be adopted, nor principles established, upon which applications for pardons shall be granted or refused.

The Constitution places the pardoning power in the hands of the Governor. While it may with propriety so remain, yet there is an urgent necessity for an advisory tribunal to examine all applications for pardon and make recommendation to the Governor, in accordance with the results of such examination. At present the whole responsibility rests upon the Executive, at least in the eyes of the public, who are, of course, ignorant of the reasons governing his action, and sharp and unfair criticism assails him in cases of reprieve or pardon.

Where the offence committed has been a grave one, as a rule, no action has been taken without the recommenda-

tion of the Judiciary, so that the official record will show good and sufficient reason for the exercise of clemency. But the applications are so numerous, so frequent, and so persistent, gaining fresh vigor with each change of administration, that the creation of a board of pardons, as in some other States, seems to be imperative.

Justice, rather than mercy, demands that in many cases a prisoner shall be set free, by reason of new evidence affecting his degree of criminality coming to light, or extenuating circumstances are shown which lessen his guilt, or even his complete innocence is established.

Nor is it improbable that a judicial blunder may need correction, so that while the power to pardon should be vested in some one, the responsibility of it ought not to be imposed wholly upon a single individual.

A REFORM SCHOOL.

In this connection it is appropriate that I call your attention to the want of a reform school for youthful offenders.

It is the duty of the State to reform, if possible, rather than render more hardened those who have broken her laws.

The history of such schools in other States shows that a large percentage of the youth who have been placed there have become good and useful citizens, and have in many instances risen to positions of honor and trust.

It is unnecessary to make a comparison between the one method of incarcerating young offenders among criminals older and more hardened, only to become more vicious, desperate and shameless, and the other plan of placing them in a school, where, while subject to wholesome restraint, they are taught useful occupations, trained to habits of industry and instructed in the great principles of morality and religion.

That many have been rescued by these means from a downward career and saved to lives of honor and usefulness, the history of such institutions conclusively proves,

and no mistaken economy should prevent the establishment of such an one in our own State.

By an act of the last General Assembly, the State Board of Education is required to collect facts and statistics in regard to reform schools in other States and make report upon the same. Their report is herewith transmitted

STATE LANDS.

The report of the Secretary of State, who has acted as Secretary of the Land Board, shows that of the entries made by the State, 29,146 33 acres have been approved by the President of the United States for the Public Building Fund—25,226.83 acres for the Penitentiary, and 44,844.43 for the University. It will be seen that there is a deficiency in the number of acres confirmed to the State, and the number donated by the Enabling Act. The full number was selected, but some of the sections being fractional, and the Land Office disallowing others on account of mineral restrictions, or other cause, and the President approving such as were allowed only two days before the expiration of the time prescribed by said act, there was no time for the State to make other selections in lieu of those disallowed.

An act of Congress will be necessary to secure to the State her full quota.

In accordance with the law passed by the last General Assembly, the State lands will be subject to sale after March 1, 1879. Many applications for the purchase of land have already been received, and when these lands are placed upon the market, the labors of the Board will be increased ten-fold. In a short time this department of our State government will develop into a separate bureau, and while it is by the constitution under the management of the State Board, and must and should so remain, yet the work in its details will of necessity be committed to others. The members of this board, by reason of the duties of their respective offices and those devolving upon them as members of other State boards, cannot do more than exercise a gen-

eral supervision of the land business. It has already been necessary to engage from time to time clerical assistance to keep the records of sales and leases of school lands, and prepare the bonds and other papers necessary in these transactions. At the outset, therefore, provision should be made for the payment of a secretary or chief clerk, to be appointed by the board, and also for such other clerical assistance as the work may demand.

The salary should be sufficient to secure the services of a man of strict integrity and recognized ability, so that the work may be properly organized at the beginning, and the land records carefully systematized.

This Secretary might also be made *ex officio* Superintendent of Immigration, and a contingent fund appropriated for the printing of circulars and statistics for distribution. The inquiries about our lands, climate, resources, etc., are many and frequent, and there is no way of answering them except by letter, which it is impossible for the State officers to do. The lack of such an officer, and the means of disseminating reliable and exact information in regard to our State, places us far behind others of the Western States, which have made every effort to encourage immigration.

I would suggest that the school lands should all be taken from the market and not sold for a term of years. The lease of these lands will yield a larger revenue to the school fund than the interest derived from the purchase money.

In this connection I have the honor to report that I have received from the United States Treasury the sum of \$1,723 90, being five per cent. of the sales of agricultural lands within the State from August 1, 1876, to June 30, 1877. This I have paid over to the State Treasurer, who has credited the same to the Internal Improvement fund.

ARID LANDS.

A bill "To provide for indemnity due to the several States under the acts of Congress approved March second,

eighteen hundred and fifty-five, and March 3, 1857, relating to swamp and overflowed lands," has been introduced into the U. S. Senate. The object of this bill is to indemnify the purchasers and locators of swamp and overflowed lands, and the States which have located or entered swamp lands, by warrant or scrip.

We have vast tracts which, without irrigation, or a total change of climate, can never be made available for agricultural purposes. It would seem, therefore, that Colorado ought to have donated to it the greater portion, if not all, these lands, so that they may be sold in large sections at a fair price for grazing purposes, and the proceeds applied to irrigating such portions as can be brought under water. This would be simply doing for our State what has been done for those containing swamp lands, which have been reclaimed, and are now in some instances the most valuable in those States.

Some action should be taken by your honorable body to bring the matter before Congress, through our Senators and Representative.

FISH CULTURE.

Many of the States fully appreciate the importance of increasing the supply of fish for food, realizing that whatever tends to cheapen the expense of living is of the utmost importance.

The appointment of a Fish Commissioner, in accordance with an act of the last General Assembly, has already been productive of benefit, although the appropriation for carrying into effect the provisions of that act was, of necessity, very small.

The Commissioner, in his report, acknowledges the uniform courtesy of the Commissioners of other States in promptly giving him the information which they had in regard to the artificial propagation of fish, and the varieties best adapted to our waters.

Your especial attention is called to his recommendations, that the owners of saw mills be prevented from depositing the dust from their mills in streams, on account of its destroying the fish, and also that an appropriation be made sufficient to build a hatching house for the artificial propagation of fish from the ova—a method less expensive than the purchase and transportation of young fish.

Prof. S. F. Baird, U. S. Commissioner of Fish and Fisheries, has promised a supply of German carp for our waters. These will be distributed as soon as received.

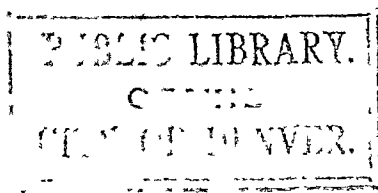
IRRIGATION.

The proper distribution of water for the purpose of irrigation is one of the most important subjects which will occupy your attention. The solution of the many questions involved is only rendered more difficult by delay. Every one is interested in it, as it affects the interests not only of our agricultural and pastoral population, but also our cities and towns, our mines and manufactories. All our industries to a greater or less extent are dependent upon water in their operations, and agriculture can not be successfully carried on without irrigation.

A number of our citizens directly interested in the subject held a convention a few weeks since to consider it, and the result of their deliberations is, I understand, embodied in a bill to be submitted for your consideration. I have no recommendation to make in regard to its details, except the general one that it may receive immediate and careful attention.

The volume of water in our streams should be as accurately ascertained as scientific skill can determine it, and the law framed to secure a safe, equitable and economical distribution according to these data, and the vested right of each individual.

I renew the suggestion contained in a former message that reservoirs for the storage of water be constructed with due regard to the safety of the persons and property of the



inhabitants under the same, from which the necessary supplies can be drawn during seasons of drought.

MILITIA.

The able report of the Adjutant-General merits careful consideration.

The necessity for a thoroughly organized and equipped military force is not an open question

Indian murders just beyond, and in two instances within our borders, effectually dispose of any argument upon it.

Since my last message pressing applications have been received from the northern, eastern, southeastern and southwestern parts of the State for aid, to protect our citizens from threatened outbreaks of the Indians. Such demands must be met promptly, if at all, and how to do it has been a perplexing problem. As the Adjutant-General states "when-ever a call has been made upon any of the companies to be ready for service, the responses have been prompt, hearty, and eager," but the necessary funds have been wanting for subsistence, transportation, and payment of services

A radical and thorough change is necessary in our militia law, and as the Adjutant-General is now a member of your body, he has drawn a bill which will, if enacted, make the "Colorado National Guard" effective and readily available.

The railroad riots through some of the eastern States show too, that it is cheaper to have a strong power to prevent violence and the destruction of property, than to indemnify the owners of property which may be destroyed by lawless mobs.

We have had, on several occasions since the last General Assembly, grave apprehensions of riot and bloodshed, and the executive was censured for not at once ordering troops to the scene of danger; but the moving of even a small force is attended with considerable expense, and I have therefore been very cautious to avoid involving the State in debt. Emergencies, however, are inevitable, even among a

law-abiding people, and to meet them men and money should be always at command.

A STATE MUSEUM.

Colorado is wonderfully rich in objects of interest to the scientist, which are being constantly carried away to enrich collections in distant States and foreign lands. The most valuable and easiest to obtain are fast disappearing. Certainly a share of them should be retained at our State Capitol for the use of our students and the gratification of the curious. A small appropriation for suitable cases and for their proper care in the State Library, for instance, would form the nucleus of what will grow into a large and valuable collection. Many of our citizens will be glad to contribute to this home museum articles which would otherwise be sent to similar institutions elsewhere.

It would be well to forbid by law the conveying away of fossil remains and geological specimens when discovered upon State lands.

Measures ought also be taken to preserve as far as possible the ancient ruins in South Western Colorado from total obliteration, and the school land upon which they are situated should never be sold, but be retained as the property of the State for the benefit of archæology.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS.

The Secretary of State, although not required to do so by law, has prepared a detailed statement of all the business of his office from November 4, 1876, to November 30, 1878, the close of the fiscal year. This contains a list of all persons to whom commissions were issued, and of articles of incorporation, brands, trade marks, etc., filed, together with items of interest in regard to state printing and the receipts and disbursements of his office.

His suggestions in regard to the publication of laws and reports, to the work and clerical force of his office, and to the fees on certain commissions, are especially called to your attention.

It would be well to make it by law his duty to prepare such a report biennially

The State Board of Health presents the most extensive report since its organization. The medical gentlemen comprising the Board have taken great pains, without any remuneration, to collect statistics and prepare papers upon subjects of vital importance to our own citizens and those of other States as well.

I cannot take up its recommendations separately, but earnestly recommend to your consideration the suggestions contained in the "Summary of Secretary's Report," page 145, as they are highly practical, and, if enacted by law, will prove to be of utility in preserving the public health, and I have no doubt give general satisfaction.

You will find in the report of the Attorney General some valuable suggestions relative to the necessity of amending certain existing laws.

Although it is not his duty under the law to give legal advice to county officers, yet he is frequently applied to from all parts of the State for opinions as to the duties of some of these officers, when not clearly defined by the law. In this way he has brought to his knowledge many defects in our laws, and it should be his duty to make report of the same to each General Assembly, so that they may be properly amended.

In accordance with the requirement of section 27, article 6 of the constitution, the honorable Judges of the Supreme Court present a report upon the Code, together with a bill for "An act to regulate the practice, pleading and procedure in actions at law in the State of Colorado." Four additional bills, covering the entire range of practice embraced by the present code, will be drafted and transmitted for your action.

It is a matter of vital importance to the people of Colorado, that our statutes be simplified as much as possible, and that our system of practice should be complete and

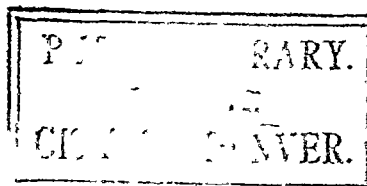
harmonious. We have too many complex, incongruous, and conflicting laws, and I therefore earnestly urge upon you the necessity for immediate and careful consideration of the suggestions of these gentlemen. Emanating as they do, from the highest judicial authority in our State, their source entitles them to especial notice. I trust you will not delay giving them proper attention early in your session, so as to prevent hasty and careless legislation.

CONCLUSION.

Since the session of the last General Assembly the State has been steadily increasing in prosperity. At that time the prospect was not the most cheering. The plague of grasshoppers had laid waste gardens and fields, bringing want, and in some instances even loss of home to the farmer. All branches of business were suffering from depression, the industries of the country were almost at a stand-still, and a vague feeling of uncertainty was apparent in all circles of commerce. The general financial embarrassment was shared by the State, for the treasury showed but a small balance, and the whole machinery of our new State government was to be set in motion upon credit. With a proper appreciation of the situation the General Assembly was prudent and economical, and our present financial status shows the wisdom of their course. Now, however, the retrospect should fill us with gladness and hope. The history of the past two years points to a glorious future for our State. The earth has yielded her increase, not only in the products of her fields, but also of her deeply hidden treasures.

Agriculture has succeeded beyond our most sanguine expectations, so that we can now export a part of our products. Our flocks and herds show a large increase, with but a very slight decrease in their market values. New discoveries of rich mines are constantly being made, and busy, bustling towns are springing up in localities where a few months since there was scarcely an inhabitant. The in-

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GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

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creased production of ore creates a demand for the construction of furnaces and smelting and reduction works, thus increasing the facilities for the manufacture of bullion, and consequently the profits of the miner. The shipments of bullion and ore will this year exceed \$12,000,000 in value. The devouring pestilence which desolated a portion of the land has not come nigh our dwellings. We have been in the full enjoyment of peace and order, of civil and religious liberty, and we can indulge with an honest pride in the steady advancement of our educational and other institutions. The school, the press, and the pulpit have all been doing their work, and knowledge, morality and religion have kept pace with the development of our material interests. We have, therefore, abundant cause for thankfulness and rejoicing, and it is with great pleasure that I congratulate you upon the auspicious circumstances under which you have met.

In closing my connection with the Executive Department, it is proper that I should express to you, and through you to the people of Colorado, my hearty thanks for the honor they have conferred in selecting me to occupy the office which I am about to deliver to my worthy and honorable successor, and thanks, too, for their confidence and support while discharging its duties.

My thanks are also due to my associates in office for their hearty co-operation and support in State affairs. Their record has been honorable, and my relations with them especially harmonious.

In conclusion, gentlemen, whatever may be the future of our State, her welfare during the period of your service is in large measure in your hands. The powers with which you are invested should be used for the benefit of all your constituents without regard to locality or political affiliation, and I feel well assured that your legislation will be wise and cordial, and that it will merit the gratitude of the people you have the honor to represent.

JNO. L. ROUTT.

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